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**Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period
1998-2001****Programme 18. Economic and social development in Western Asia**

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.
2. Regulation 3.11 provides, *inter alia*, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.
3. The revisions proposed below modify the narrative of programme 18, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/219 of 18 December 1996 and issued in document A/51/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1.
4. The revisions aim at emphasizing the right to development and the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the plans, policies and programmes of ESCWA, in line with the mandates adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and relevant subsidiary bodies.
5. Owing to the biennialization of its calendar of meetings, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia did not meet in 1998 and therefore did not review the revisions. ESCWA member States will be apprised of the revisions through the report on the activities of the Commission that is dispatched to them in the year when the Commission does not meet.

A. Programme

- Paragraph 18.1* At the end of the paragraph, add "and mainstream the gender and right to development perspectives into those dimensions".
- Paragraph 18.3* Add a new paragraph 18.4 to read as follows:



"18.4 ESCWA will also work towards implementing article 8, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Declaration on the Right to Development. It will assist its member States in ensuring that they undertake all necessary measures for the realization of the right to development and ensure, *inter alia*, equality of opportunity for all in their access to basic resources, education, health services, food, housing, employment and the fair distribution of income. ESCWA will also support the efforts of Governments to ensure that women have an active role in the development process and that appropriate economic and social reforms are undertaken in eradicating all social injustices."

and *renumber* the subsequent paragraphs accordingly.

Paragraph 18.4

(new paragraph 18.5)

In subparagraph (a), *insert* the words, "especially gender-disaggregated statistics," after the word "region".

Add a new subparagraph (h) to read as follows:

"(h) Ensuring that gender and issues pertaining to the right to development are mainstreamed into the plan, policies and programmes of ESCWA."

B. Subprogrammes

Subprogramme 18.1 Management of natural resources and environment

Paragraph 18.6

(new paragraph 18.7)

Replace subparagraph (b) with the following:

"(b) To contribute to the design and propagation of schemes for more rational utilization and conservation of freshwater resources, taking into consideration the need for increasing public awareness and ensuring the participation of men and women in local communities in the management and use of water, implementation of water projects and environment protection programmes."

At the end of subparagraph (d), *add* "in full compliance with the various articles of the Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Water Courses in the region".

Insert a new subparagraph (e) to read as follows:

"(e) To encourage optimal utilization of freshwater resources, enforcement of efficient water pricing and demand management, taking into consideration the social well being of the disadvantaged."

Paragraph 18.7

(new paragraph 18.8)

At the end of subparagraph (b), *add* "and encourage the development of programmes for the efficient use of energy".

Paragraph 18.8

(new paragraph 18.9)

In subparagraph (c), *insert* the words "in selected priority areas" after the words "sectoral development".

Subprogramme 18.2 Improvement of the quality of life

Paragraph 18.11 In the first sentence, *replace* the word "four" with the word "five".
(*new paragraph 18.12*)

At the end of the paragraph, *add* "and the World Conference on Human Rights. Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all activities will be accorded priority".

Paragraph 18.12 In subparagraph (a), *insert* the words "gender-sensitive" before
(*new paragraph 18.13*) the words "demographic analysis".

Replace subparagraph (c) with the following:

"(c) To increase understanding of the linkages between population factors, gender, poverty, human rights and environment."

Paragraph 18.13 At the end of subparagraph (a), *add* ", taking into consideration
(*new paragraph 18.14*) the feminization of poverty".

Paragraph 18.14 In subparagraph (a), *replace* the word "four" with the word "five".
(*new paragraph 18.15*)

At the end of subparagraph (c), *add* "and act as a catalyst in mainstreaming a gender perspective into development policies, plans and programmes".

Paragraph 18.15 At the end of subparagraph (a), *add* "and assess their impact on
(*new paragraph 18.16*) the quality of life".

At the end of subparagraph (b), *add* "aiming at the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing".

Subprogramme 18.3 Economic development and global changes

Paragraph 18.17 In subparagraph (a), *insert* the words "debt management" after the
(*new paragraph 18.18*) words "finance".

At the end of subparagraph (c), *add* "and integration in the global financial system".

Subprogramme 18.5 Development, coordination and harmonization of statistics and information

Paragraph 18.21 In the first sentence, *insert* the words "gender-disaggregated"
(*new paragraph 18.22*) after the words "comparability of".

In the second sentence, *insert* the words "gender-sensitive" after the word "appropriate".

Paragraph 18.22 In subparagraph (a), *insert* the words "and gender sensitive" after
(*new paragraph 18.23*) the word "accuracy".

Replace subparagraph (b) with the following:

"(b) To expand the coverage of the subprogramme to new statistical areas, especially in the field of gender-sensitive and social statistics as required for follow-up action on the

implementation of the recommendations emanating from the above-mentioned world conferences, and in monitoring the exercise of the right to development”.

In subparagraph (c), *insert* the words, “gender-disaggregated” after the words “to develop”.

C. Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 18.2 Improvement of the quality of life

Add the following resolutions:

General Assembly resolutions

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| 41/128 | Declaration on the right to development |
| 52/25 | Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development |
| 52/100 | Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action |
| 52/136 | Right to development |
| 52/148 | Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action |
| 52/195 | Women in development |
| 52/196 | Developing human resources for development |

Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions

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| 1997/2 | Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United system |
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Commission on Human Rights resolution

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| 1997/72 | The right to development |
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